

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of inhibiting *Ehrlichia canis* infection in a subject comprising the steps of:

5 identifying a subject prior to exposure or suspected of being exposed to or infected with *Ehrlichia canis*; and

administering a composition comprising a 28-kDa antigen of *Ehrlichia canis* in an amount effective to inhibit *Ehrlichia canis* infection.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein said 28-kDa antigen is a recombinant protein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID No. 2, 4, 6, 40, 42, 44 and 46.

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3. The method of claim 2, wherein said recombinant protein is encoded by a gene comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID No. 1, 3, 5, 39, 41, 43 and 45.

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4. The method of claim 1, wherein said composition comprising a 28-kDa antigen is dispersed in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.